

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of reuse of medical script objects used in the automated diagnosis or management of a medical condition, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of disease objects, each disease object associated with a plurality of symptom objects; and

assigning a weight for each symptom, wherein a particular disease object ~~may include~~ includes a preferred weight for one or more preferred symptoms and an alternative weight for one or more alternative symptoms, wherein the alternative symptoms are selected from a set of archived symptom objects that are available for reuse.

2. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1, additionally comprising assigning a new name for a symptom object that is reused.

3. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1, wherein the set of archived symptom objects is stored in a database.

4. (Original) The method defined in Claim 3, additionally comprising accessing the set of archived symptom objects stored in the database via a global computer network.

5. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1, wherein each symptom object has underlying objects used to establish the symptom.

6. (Currently amended) An object based automated diagnostic system comprising a plurality of objects which interact to determine the diagnosis of a patient, wherein the objects includes at least ~~one~~ two of: a disease object, a symptom object, a valuator object, a question object, a node object and a candidates object.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the objects include a plurality of disease objects and a plurality of symptom objects.

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8. (Original) The system of Claim 6, additionally comprising an engine object to coordinate the other objects.

9. (Original) An object based automated diagnostic system comprising a plurality of objects, wherein the objects include at least a plurality of disease objects and a plurality of symptom objects, and wherein at least some of the objects perform their own tasks and call upon other objects to perform their tasks at the appropriate time.

10. (New) The system of Claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of disease objects includes a preferred weight for one or more preferred symptoms and an alternative weight for one or more alternative symptoms.

11. (New) A method of reuse of medical script objects used in the automated diagnosis or management of a medical condition, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of disease objects, each disease object associated with a plurality of symptom objects; and

assigning a weight for each symptom, wherein a particular disease object includes a preferred weight for one or more preferred symptoms and an alternative weight for one or more alternative symptoms, wherein the alternative symptoms are selected from a set of archived symptom objects that are available for reuse, and wherein a particular preferred symptom has one or more related alternative symptoms that represent different approaches for eliciting further diagnostic information related to the same patient health item.

12. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the alternative weights for more than one alternative symptom of the particular preferred symptom are different.

13. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the alternative weights for the one or more alternative symptoms of the particular preferred symptom and the preferred weight of the particular preferred symptom are different.

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14. (New) The method of Claim 11, additionally comprising assigning a new name for a symptom object that is reused.

15. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of archived symptom objects is stored in a database.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, additionally comprising accessing the set of archived symptom objects stored in the database via a global computer network.

17. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein each symptom object has underlying objects used to establish the symptom.